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P.S. 5/25/05

Docket No. 12969-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bitler et al

Group Art Unit: 1714

5 Serial No.: 09/810,920

Examiner: Peter Szekely

Filing Date: March 16, 2001

Title: Polymeric Thickeners for Oil-containing Compositions

Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents

10 P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY**

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

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This paper is a reply to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2005, which is a final rejection. Reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of this application are requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks below.

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Applicant believes that the Examiner will have no difficulty in agreeing that the Amendments and Remarks below overcome the objections and rejections made in the Office Action. If that is not the case, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned (650-854-6304), in the expectation that Applicant will be anxious to resolve any remaining issues without the necessity of an appeal. If the Examiner does indeed find the application to be in condition for allowance, a telephone call to that effect would be much appreciated.

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Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this Reply.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 4 of this Reply

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Remarks/arguments begin on page 22 of this Reply.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
On May 10, 2005 Typed name of person signing this certificate: T. H. P. Richardson  
Signature